



Scout Executive's Message Christian J. Long, SE

This year is off to a great start with a couple real neat activities having taken place. The Klondike Derby was well-attended, and full of great skills demonstrations and competitions. February 21st was the Caterpillar Decatur Merit Badge Fair which featured 14 different merit badges being taught. Program opportunities abound with fun activities for our Scouts, and smiles are everywhere.

But is "fun" what it is really about? Ask any of our Scouts and I am positive that the answer will be "Yes". Fun certainly is an important part of Scouting, but not what we are in it for. Fun is but one of many "methods" that we use to reinforce the VALUES that we try to teach to our Scouts (other methods include the uniform, advancement system, and patrol method). Try this on for size - the Boy Scouts of America is not a recreational program, but rather an educational program that strives to instill values in young people to help them make ethical choices over their lifetimes. It may seem unnatural to talk about Scouting in this way. It is the sense of mission that has helped the Boy Scouts of America stay relevant these past 99 years, and what will help us make a difference into our centennial next year and beyond!

As a leader in one of our programs you ought to feel very proud of your involvement with your child's unit (or on the district or council level). Your involvement is more than making fun times for your son and his friends - it is changing their lives in a uniquely positive way that you probably never thought of.

I thank you for your involvement, and I hope that you are getting as much out of your Scouting experience as the young men and women that you are mentoring!

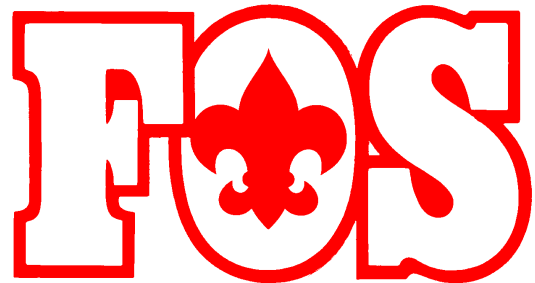
Friends of Scouting

This year a new program was developed to help raise money in the Family Friends of Scouting campaign. We kept hearing "horror stories" about how many of the presentations that were done orally would drag on for 20 minutes or more. Additionally, the story being told at each presentation would vary wildly from the other presentations. We heard your cries and are excited to bring forth a new DVD that features a 5 minute message. If you have not yet scheduled your presentation with a member of your district finance team, please take a moment to talk with them and see how a presentation can fit into your existing program. We have found that the presentation works best when it is scheduled prior to starting your meeting.

FOS Progress Report

As of February 23rd, 2009

Division	Goal	Current	% Goal
Executive Board	\$20,000	\$14,089	70.4%
Railsplitter	\$80,000	\$9,694	12.1%
Scoutreach	\$11,000	\$1,500	13.6%
Redhawk	\$29,000	\$1,555	5.4%
Two Rivers	\$35,000	\$7,616	21.8%
Council Total	\$175,000	\$34,454	19.7%



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